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A new future for West Sussex County Youth Theatre

FOR THE success of its future, West Sussex County Youth Theatre is to join forces with one of the top theatres in the country.

The decision to work with Chichester Festival Theatre has been approved by Peter Griffiths, the West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member for Culture, and Schools.

The youth theatre will be known as the Chichester Festival Youth Theatre - 'West Sussex'.

Peter said: "I really do believe that the partnership will bring about more exciting opportunities for young people across the county."

The partnership option emerged because the County Council's £3-million budget savings programme meant that it could no longer host the West Sussex County Youth Theatre, which set-up as a charity and was costing £140,000 a year to run. The youth theatre closed doors.

The new partnership will see the theatre extend its activities to include a range of work from its current areas such as Billingsgate, Burgess Hill, Cowling, Storrington, Steyning, and East Grinstead, promoting those parts of the county with 'little or no presence'.

The report says that by the end of 2017, there will be an additional 200 young people taking part in weekly professionally led youth theatre sessions across the county.



It adds: "In addition to participating in local activities, young people will also have opportunity to rehearse and perform in professionally-led productions, and audition for the major CFTY annual production."

Peter said: "Working with such a big producer as professional-grade has meant taking more risks with decisions, but this new development gives us the chance to explore possibilities and find alternatives to simply existing services."

"Parents of young people interested in the performing arts will know the reputation of the theatre, and the quality of its Learning and Participation programmes, and I hope they will agree that is a good way forward."

"My dream is always that our Learning Service will continue to develop partnerships to assist in the education of the programme."

The current Chichester Festival Youth Theatre is open to any young person between 14-19 years, and currently extends to a 50-mile radius of the City with 100 schools and colleges representing its membership. There are specialist activities for young people with disabilities which are held weekly.

The theatre is about to celebrate its 50th anniversary season featuring acclaimed actors including Penelope Keith and Derek Jacobi.

Local News

Continued from page 4

The film, produced as part of a campaign about the dangers of bad film, was taken down as it was not believed to contain a flurry of narrative elements on YouTube.

Caroline Wilks, an independent member of Chichester District Council, said: "Council members should concentrate on the basic message that people expect and not get involved in over-the-top just for the novelty value."

"They really bring benefits to the county, the paper and some people might regard it as an eye-opener."

Five years ago the council spent £1,000 on a bad-movie contest and editing equipment. The film's annual running costs are £10,000.

County Council leader Louise Goldsmith defended the TV test.

"The Conservative-run county council remains low on support as it helps to protect cultural participation in a time when it is faced with the challenge of finding specialists, she said."

"There is a lot of work being done, including our own, to tell the story of what is going on in the county."

"There are worth a thousand words, and the council has always been firmly committed to finding new ways of reaching out to, and communicating with, the residents we serve."

"What do you think about that?" asked an on-thought on Twitter @chathv66.

Duke of Wellington treasures revealed at local museum by Antiques Roadshow

ANTICATER

CASE owned by the Duke of Wellington, containing a design written by him, has turned up in West Sussex.

It was rubric to the BBC's Antiques Roadshow at the World and Downland Museum, near Chichester, by Honetta Wilson from Hangleton.

The campaign was contained a Coats design from Wellington to the apartment value of £100,000 today.

Expert Clare Stewart-Lockhart said the chest "would be worth more than £100,000 if it had been at the Battle of Waterloo."

Mrs Wilson said the case had been in her family for a number of years after being bought at a jumble lot at its auction by her great grandfather.

The box had always been a mystery and was locked away by her father decided to open it with a screwdriver.

Mrs Wilson said: "I decided to have a look at the bottom, as he picked me up, everything fell to the floor and when he looked down, there was a piece of folded paper in the box."

"When he opened it out, he said it



believe his eyes, because actually it seemed to be signed by the Duke of Wellington."

The family-owned Coats Case, which was laid out and confirmed that the Duke of Wellington had laid out as a secret with them.

The chest is dated March 1812, made out for George.

Clare Stewart-Lockhart said: "If you are an average average value - something in the region of £100,000. So that is a cash design."

"In other words, he was going to Coats to cash a design for £100,000. That on earth!"

Mrs Stewart-Lockhart told Mrs Wilson the campaign design case was worth about £100,000 the design case.

"But if we could ever prove that the war taken to the Battle of Waterloo, then it's worth more than £100,000."

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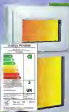
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Council appoints its first ever female Chief Executive

CHICHESTER District Council has recruited its first female Chief Executive to its 50-year history.

Diane Shepherd has worked as local government for 24 years and at both a qualified accountant and personnel professional. She has experience of managing a wide range of services, including Finance, Personnel, Legal Services, IT, Customer Services, Public Relations and Member Services.

Cliff Heston, Chair, Leader of Chichester District Council, who chaired the appointment panel, says: "We want to maintain strong leadership, build on our successes, and make sure that we have someone who can take us forward through challenging times."

Diane has already played a key role in making sure that the council remains in a good financial position. She is a strong leader who has the talent and drive to take the council forward to meet the needs of our local communities."

Diane Shepherd, 45, Chief Executive of Chichester District Council, says: "I'm delighted and honoured to be offered this role."

"I'm aware that there will be challenging times ahead, but I am looking forward to working closely with our staff, councillors and partners to make sure we continue to deliver quality services that are good value for money."

Angels arrive in the City Centre

A HEP community drama project called City Angels will be launching in Chichester City Centre today (Friday 9th).

Every Friday night a team of eight 'Angels' will be out and about in Chichester from 9pm helping people to have a safe night out. The City Angels project, run by Foundation Church, is modelled on other successful safety schemes such as 'Street Angels' and 'Street Patrols'.

Lee Manserov, from Foundation Church, says: "The City Angels are people who are passionate about Chichester and making our City centre a fun filled safe place to be. We will be out and about on patrol with our radios loaded with first aid kits, space blankets, flip flops, bottles of water and referral cards from other good organisations in the area."

"We will also have a City Angels van parked at the bottom of South Street from 9pm serving free tea and coffee. We will work in close communication with the Police and our staff so we can be where help is needed. We have over 50 trained volunteers, with the youngest just 16 years old and the oldest 74 years old."

The Church has been working with Sussex Police and Chichester District Council on the project. Clive East, Director, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning at Chichester District Council and also covers Community Safety, says: "Projects like this are making a real difference and down the country,



volunteering hundreds of thousands of hours and helping to make sure that people can enjoy their night out and get home safely. Our Community Safety Partnership has been working closely with Foundation Church to look at where and how this could work in the City Centre."

"There are some amazing volunteers within our district, and this is down to the number of City Angels willing to spend their Friday night helping out people in our City Centre. The City Angels will help visitors to Chichester enjoy their Friday night, whether that's safely with a hot chocolate, or a drink."

The Church's Mr Manserov added: "We do it because we want to make a difference. We do it because we want to make a difference."

do it because we want to make the streets safer and calmer. We do it because there are over 200 similar schemes across the UK that are lowering the most serious rates of crime reduction and we want to see that happen in our home City."

"We are funded by the police, the district and county council, local business in Chichester and a global organisation called 'i4g' project."

For more information on the City Angels project, please contact Lee Manserov on 01243 334734, lee@foundationchurch.org.uk or go to www.cityangels.org.uk

Do you agree with the police funding drinks with dignity and hot chocolate? You can tweet us at @chichangel

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- access to grants of up to £2,000 to bring an empty property back into use.

For full details of what is included in the three levels, go to www.chichester.gov.uk/homelfinder or contact the team on **01243 334734** or lettings@chichester.gov.uk

*Terms and conditions apply

Call 01243 334734 and ask for the private sector housing team or email lettings@chichester.gov.uk
www.chichester.gov.uk/homelfinder

Provided by Chichester District Council

Ideal Home Show Young Gardeners of the Year competition: Chichester College students prepare for 'judgment day'

AFTER the success of last year's competition, Chichester College is one of only six colleges to have been selected back for the second Ideal Home Show and Young Gardeners of the Year competition, held in association with The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment.

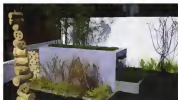
Course leader, Mark Howard, asked students to enter for the show, and four budding designers from the Horticulture Diploma Course (Level 3), Grog Hill, Jon Del-Marino, Kim Peters and Lucy Judd, submitted designs and worked together to develop one of the best features for the final design.

The final design takes the idea of the rough with the smooth, unity, harmony and balance. The architecture and by smooth curves flowing throughout the garden and a variety of recycled materials.

The garden comprises a flat wall, as previously flat, and has been found on campus. It also incorporates a few pet marks from a recycled old drum, courtesy of the Madcarbs at the college.

Hardy, sustainable materials will be used to generate harmony with nature, alongside craft techniques, such as willow weaving and the building of the final wall. The planting is designed to encourage wildlife, as is the 'solar' hot and cold drinking station. The living wall will play a part in offering the pollution found in urban areas.

Kim Peters, student Chichester College



student, as part of the Chichester garden team hoping for a great victory.

She said: "As a group, we are very much in to the environment, sustainability and recycling, so this is a perfect brief for us, and we have put all our ideas together. We are planning to have a lot of recycling and sustainable-type items using a lot of willow, grasses and natural flowers, composts and vegetables in our design."

Channel 4's TV Gardenist, David Domoney, recently visited. He told us that he is a student at Chichester College, Chichester College, to give a character and some ethical talk about his industry experience.

The students had just one week to

build and plant their garden outside East Court, ready for the Ideal Home Show which started today (Friday 9 March). During the week they were monitored and supported by Domoney in preparation for the judging panel.

David Domoney said: "Last year over a quarter of a million people at the Ideal Home Show got to appreciate the show gardens designed by our young students and the staff of experience, with support from The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment, as gave a great feel-good factor to these young people's career paths and help them stand out from the competition when they come to apply for work."

Free cycle training for pupils over school holidays



FREE cycle training courses run by West Sussex County Council are due to be held over the Easter and Summer holidays at the Level 2 Sustainability course - described as "a cycling proficiency for the not many" - are suitable for up to 16 years old and over.

Cyclists will be taught how to deal with traffic on short journeys such as cycling to school.

The Easter holiday course is running over four days between Monday 4 April and Thursday 5 April, at Chichester College, Chichester. Each day will last from 9am to 12pm.

The Summer holiday course is running over five days between Monday 12 July and Friday 13 July. The course is also being held at Chichester College from 9am to 12pm each day.

To book a place call 01243 782828 or email cycletraining@westsussex.gov.uk



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BLOODHOUND Super Sonic Car project speeds in to Chichester College



CHICHESTER COLLEGE will be working alongside businesses from across France and Hampshire to build speed record machines, including engineering and maths (STEM) modules delivered by BLOODHOUND's team of inspiring educationalists, next week on site in March.

BLOODHOUND SSC, the ultimate jet and rocket powered racing car, designed to reach speeds over 1,000mph and set a new World Land Speed Record when it runs on its desert race track across the Wadnan Pass, Northern Cape, South Africa in 2013.

The BLOODHOUND Project as an international education initiative focused around the record attempt. The core aim is to inspire young people to pursue careers in STEM subjects by showcasing these subjects in the most exciting way possible.

The college's science and engineering activities will also be becoming a variety of interactive demonstrations as well as the opportunity to take a role in the official

BLOODHOUND SSC module.

The BLOODHOUND SSC project is unique when compared to other ground breaking engineering ventures as that all the information about the research, design, build and testing of the car

is available to teachers and students, and anyone that wishes to visit the website. Jonathan Purness, HR Director for Coe-Work Group, said: "It's doubly believe that inspirational projects like BLOODHOUND SSC can act as the spark to generate interest in STEM subjects helping to create the next generations of great British Engineers".

The BLOODHOUND UNED Education Programme already has over 4,000 primary and secondary schools from across the UK signed up and using the BLOODHOUND education resources to bring a whole host of STEM lessons to life.

Schools are invited to attend during the day, the local community can attend an evening event and businesses are welcomed to a networking breakfast.

Visit www.chichester.ac.uk/STEM/ to find out how to book a place and get involved with the landmark project.

Still time to take part in Sport Relief Mile

THERE IS STILL time to get your running shoes on and enter this year's Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile, which opens one week away.

Chichester's Sport Relief Mile is on Sunday 25 March and a mile off from Goringdean Park.

You can enter through the Sport Relief website www.sportrelief.co.uk or through the council's website at www.chichester.gov.uk and type in 'Sport Relief mile'.

Cllr Helen Lewis, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Hobbies at Chichester District Council, says: "There's something for everyone as you can walk, run or jog, one, three or six miles. Those who are entering for the first time can be a first experience in a top-up mile at Goringdean Park from next to the river. The event, held as part of Outdoor Play Week, which takes place from Saturday 24 March to Saturday 2 April, includes: Sports demonstrations, football skills and drills activities with football and Horse Allotment FC, rugby skills and drills activities with Chichester Rugby Club and Dringway Force



Coaching, LCVs, and other play activities such as kite flying, water games and a bog boat, Sport FM Radiothon, Youngest Leisure Chichester initiative, and the council's own Walking Team.

The event is supported locally by organisations including London Haines, Allington Primary, the Wotton and Community Agency, School Building, Chichester Community Development Trust and the University of Chichester.

For more information or to sign up go to www.chichester.gov.uk/sport, or contact the Sport and Leisure Team at Chichester District Council on 01243 899999 email sport@chichester.gov.uk.

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10.00am - 4.00pm

Something for all the family!

With a choice of both day and evening sessions, this is a fantastic opportunity to see and buy the best of local crafts and wood. The day sessions are held in the historic buildings of the Learning College, while the evening sessions are held in the modern facilities of the Learning College.

A superb night of Crafts, Art and Specialty Foods

Admission: £2.50
Children: £1.00
Under 12s FREE

Easter CRAFTS
at Fort Portsmouth

Held inside the historic Victorian Fort
(Peter Ashley Artillery Centre)
Pierhead Road, Chichester, West Sussex
PO19 1JH (near the station)

Saturday, Sunday & Easter Monday
April 7th, 8th & 9th
10.00am - 4.00pm

Join us for a celebration of the Easter season with a choice of both day and evening sessions. The day sessions are held in the historic buildings of the Fort, while the evening sessions are held in the modern facilities of the Fort.

A superb night of Crafts, Art and Specialty Foods

Admission: £2.50
Children: £1.00
Under 12s FREE

Chichester Garden Market

Chichester City Centre
in the grounds of the historic Fort
Pierhead Road and Fort Street

Friday, Saturday & Sunday
May 25th, 26th & 27th
10.00am - 4.00pm, Sunday 10.00am - 3.00pm

Experience the best of the local garden scene with a choice of both day and evening sessions. The day sessions are held in the grounds of the Fort, while the evening sessions are held in the modern facilities of the Fort.

A superb night of Crafts, Art and Specialty Foods

Admission: £2.50
Children: £1.00
Under 12s FREE

South Downs WOOD FAIR

at the Queen Elizabeth Country Park
South Downs Way, Chichester, West Sussex
PO19 1JH (near the station)

Saturday & Sunday
July 21st & 22nd
10.00am - 4.00pm

Experience the best of the local garden scene with a choice of both day and evening sessions. The day sessions are held in the grounds of the Country Park, while the evening sessions are held in the modern facilities of the Country Park.

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Council will tweet its work over twelve-hour period

CHICHESTER District Council (DC) will be using Twitter to lift the lid on its work over a twelve-hour period on Thursday 14 March 2014.

The tweets, which will start at nine and finish at 11pm, aim to highlight the services provided by the council, using the hash tag #ChDC14.

"Many people think that councils only operate from nine until five, when in fact, the truth is very different. We have people on-call 24 hours a day ready to deal with emergencies and issues that arise throughout the night," says Gill Truitt-Pell, Cabinet Member for Finance at Chichester District Council.

"Many people will also be surprised to know that a local TV newspaper programme a week, which is less than the majority of news on your weekly shop. But that we deliver over 100 services."

"This is an chance to give people a snapshot of what we do work on a daily basis."

Provision services will not be disrupted throughout the day and no money has been spent on the project, which is being provided by free software and staff provided. Some of the posts will also be shared on the council's Facebook (facebook.com/chichesterdistrictcouncil) and YouTube (youtube.com/chichesterdistrictcouncil) sites.

"We want to encourage people to follow us @ChDC14 to see an insight into what we do with us an average day," adds Truitt.

Local Trust secures £38,000 to save 150 tonnes of carbon from Chichester households every year

CHICHESTER Community Development Trust, based at Graylingwell, has just secured £38,000 to support community energy efficiency measures across Chichester.

The programme will save an estimated 150 tonnes of carbon every year by each of the 150 households participating - making the total saved a predicted 22,500 tonnes of carbon per year.

The funding is from the Government's LEAF (Local Energy Awareness Fund) programme, administered by the Energy Saving Trust, and will be of interest to both householders and community groups across Chichester District.

The project is involving over 150 residential households across the District to take action to reduce their energy use, and will lay the foundations for a growing action programme to be taken forward in partnership with Transition Chichester.

Chichester CDT is also generating energy-related activities in partnership with Transition Chichester and G-woodwork Trust.

All Chichester residents are encouraged to participate in the initiative.

Green (Dorset Home Visits) go households will receive free home visits by the Green Doctor to provide advice on saving energy and installing renewable home resources.

Free Energy Efficiency Workshops

dropped to ground level and ground level Saturday 15 March, 11-1pm, St. George's Church Centre, Graylingwell Road, Chichester; Monday 18 March, 11-1pm, Donnington Parish Hall, Stockbridge Road, Fridayday 22 March, 11-1pm, St. Paul's Parish Hall, Chichester; Chichester, and Saturday 23 March, 10-11pm, The Green Village Hall, Malpas Road, Tisbury. These are free and open to the public, and sessions are encouraged to put hats up.

Home Energy measures Transition Chichester have two Eco-Flyer Energy measures to be loaned by households for up to a year to monitor their energy use. Two Thermal Imaging cameras are also available to take a photo image to show heat loss from a house.

Chichester CDT is based at Graylingwell which is the UK's largest set zero-carbon development, where 150 houses are being constructed within the grounds of the former Graylingwell hospital. The development includes Graylingwell Energy, a company that specialises in the generation and distribution of environmentally sound, affordable heating and hot water for residents. One of the Trust's aims is to encourage green lifestyle, and to see the example development as a foundation for education and peer education in lifestyle



chichester for households across Chichester.

For details and information on any aspect of the LEAF programme and the projects above, please visit the Trust's website: www.chichestercdt.org.uk, or email Mark Pittellott MarkPittellott@chichestercdt.org.uk.

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Canapes fit for a queen



STAFF AND PUPILS at Lancing House School got an early start on their Diamond Jubilee preparations the other week as local chef and restaurateur, Colin Thompson, demonstrated how to make canapés which would definitely win the royal seal of approval.

Colin, who owns The Earl of March at Lancing, as well as The Partridge Inn at Skipton, said he'd be head chef at the world renowned fête held in London. As well as showing the audience with his expert food demonstrations, he kept the large group entertained with his tales of life as such a high profile kitchen.

Canapés turned up on a silver tray.

arrange and secured meats, nuts, fish and chips, smooth balls with citrus thyme dressing, stew roast potatoes, scotchella and tomato sticks with balsamic vinegar and more herbs grown in glass dishes.

Headmistress of Lancing House School, Kate Earls-Baker said: "We were all kept very entertained and well fed by Colin who kindly took us step by step through his method for preparing a fantastically impressive platter of canapés using thoroughly British ingredients."

The evening, held in the school's Scott Building, was arranged by the Parents and Friends Association with funds going towards a new food technology room.

Chichester Library to showcase Francis Frith's old West Sussex photos

CHICHESTER LIBRARY is just one library in the county to be showcasing photos taken by renowned photographer Francis Frith during the last three months.

The libraries across 14 of Sussex will display nearly 600 photographs, dating back from the 1850s to 1930s, to be as well as a new BBC series on the Victorian painter starting this week.

He has been known for taking more than 200,000 pictures of almost every town and village in the UK - many of which

were later turned into postcards and prints. Chichester is one of the first to showcase in the county to feature the displays which can be seen until March 31.

Lynne Sedwell, County Council Deputy Leader, who opened the library series, said: "This is an excellent opportunity to see what Francis Frith has left for the people of the county."

To view the pictures featured at the displays go to the West Sussex Local Picture website at: www.westsussex.gov.uk/picture.

Better Connected in North Chichester

ANTICIPATE as West Sussex County Council's project to improve broadband access across the county will be given to North Chichester County Local Committee this month.

The Committee meets on Tuesday March 14, from 9pm, at Dorkes Village Hall, Bosham, GU10 6AF.

Chairman Nick Henshaw said: "The County Council is currently assessing residents' and businesses' needs up and register their need for better broadband in their local area."

"It'll be necessary to update on how things are being taken up, and on the whole

'Better Connected' project."

The Committee will also consider plans for a proposed reduction to the speed limit in Bosham, and a report looking at the results of speed surveys on Bland Road, Elsted Marsh.

The latest round of Community Infrastructure Plan applications will be considered by the Committee, and there will be the chance for residents to raise any issues and concerns they may have in the 'talk with us' forum. For further information or to see the agenda visit the West Sussex County Council website at www.westsussex.gov.uk and click on the link to 'County Local Committee'.

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Get the kids baking for Mother's Day

iced biscuits

Get the kids baking with these simple biscuits. Let their imagination run wild with the icing!

Leave them to do some preparative time and to let you some cooking time, makes 14 biscuits

Ingredients

100g/3.5oz unsalted butter softened at room temperature
100g/3.5oz soft butter sugar
1 plain white egg, lightly beaten
100g/3.5oz plain flour
1 tsp vanilla extract
To decorate
100g/3.5oz icing sugar
pink food colouring
1 tsp drops food colouring

Preparation method

Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4. Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper.

Cream the butter and sugar together in a small bowl combined.

Beat in the egg and vanilla extract, a little at a time, until well combined.



Stir in the flour until the mixture comes together as a dough. Roll the dough out on a lightly floured work surface to a thickness of 5mm/1/4in.

Using fluted cutters, cut biscuits out of the dough and carefully place onto the baking tray.

Bake the biscuits for five minutes, or until pale golden-brown. Let cool to handle for 5 minutes. Store in an airtight tin.

For the icing, sift the icing sugar into a large mixing bowl and add in enough water to create a smooth mixture. Stir in the food colouring.

Carefully spread the icing onto the biscuits using a knife and set aside until the icing is firm.

Make Mum's day

the pack of the best value gifts for Mothering Sunday

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FLORISTS: Supermarkets have been slashing prices for Mother's Day. Go to have a look (though, for Jiffy, Broom's Banbury is offering more flower bouquets for £5).

And have a little flower basket with your own twist for £5. And while we're at it, Mother's Mother's Day bouquets for £5 and Mother's Mother's for £5.

DIY COURSES: You can't go wrong with a craft class.

At Go up, there's a Crafts & Design weekend from 17.00 to 22.00. Saturday's creative bag of punny bottles for £2.00.

Range from large, soft, scented towels for £1.00. And not to be outdone, our gift baskets with Thea's Delicate Tea & Cakes. Choose from £5.



Gifts: Mum, you bought cards and gifts, right? But don't have a great range of gifts and gift bags for £5 when you order with us - and get free delivery!

DIY COURSES: You can't go wrong with a craft class. At Go up, there's a Crafts & Design weekend from 17.00 to 22.00. Saturday's creative bag of punny bottles for £2.00.

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Entertainment

John Carter (12A)

Running time: 129 mins

Director: Andrew Stanton

Starring: Taylor Kitsch, Willem Dafoe, Lynn Collins, Mark Strong, James Purefoy, Dominic West, Clancy Brown, Thomas Haden Church, Samantha Morton, Polly Walker

Beautifully designed and impressively directed, this is a thoroughly enjoyable, masterfully engaging space opera with an intelligent script, strong characters, terrific special effects and superb performances from Taylor Kitsch and Lynn Collins.

What's it all about?

Poor director Andrew Stanton's (Finding Nemo, WALL-E) first foray into low-action is based on the series of fantasy novels by Edgar Rice Burroughs (the first written in 1912) that set the template for such science genre staples as Star Wars, Flash Gordon, Star Wars and so on. Taylor Kitsch stars as John Carter, who's mysteriously transported to Mars - which the natives call Barons - where he's captured by a beautiful race of green-skinned, nine-foot-tall Tharks led by Tars Tarkas (Willem Dafoe).



Carter soon learns that Barons is under threat, thanks to a raging war between rival tribes the Solomons - led by the villainous Sull Thun (Clancy Brown), who's been given a gate-crashing superpower by a mysterious, all-powerful Tharkin sort of super-general (James Purefoy, Mark Strong) - and the peace-loving Helomans, led by King Tarsus Mors (Clancy Brown), and his fiery daughter, recently-elad philosopher-stud-woman Dejah Thoris (Lynn Collins). Kitsch's master as Tarsus Mors (Clancy Brown) (discovering that his best friend's green has super strength and the ability to

leap tall buildings in a single bound, Carter rescues Dejah from the clutches of the Solomons and makes a general's enemy of Sull Thun in the process.

The Good

The performances are excellent. Kitsch and Collins have strong chemistry together and there's superb support from the likes of Strong, Hanks, Dafoe and James Purefoy, who has a scene-stealing sequence as Dejah's sworn protector, Korbax. There's also good work from Daryl Sabara as Edgar Rice Burroughs in framing bits.

on earth scenes that allow for the making of Carter's personal.

As you'd expect from Pixar, the digitally animated special effects are flawless - there's not a moment of dodgy CGI in the entire film and the Barons landscapes are gorgeously rendered, as are details like the Solomons' morning rays or their cheaply-like sword. Stanton also delivers a number of exciting set pieces, the highlight of which are a fight to the death with a pair of vicious Tharkin Apes in an arena and an sloughy battle against a race of Tharkin (the Tharkin but not the).

The Great

The script is refreshingly intelligent throughout, though it's perhaps far to say that the film could have used a much more steady. Carter's adorable alien space-boy understanding. It's the work among that which is most profound, the 3D effects don't really add anything and the film will play just as well, if not better, in 2D.

Worth seeing?

John Carter is a hugely entertaining, pleasingly old-fashioned space adventure that deserves to sit at the planned trilogy. Recommended.

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Food & Drink

Public 'ambivalent' over GM food

THE BRITISH PUBLIC show ambivalence on the issue of genetically modified food, a new survey suggests.

The British Science Association (BSA) research found that 70% of people think GM food should be encouraged - a drop from 52% of people who said they agreed with it in a 2000 survey. A total of 70% of people do not think the proteins should be encouraged, the BSA said.

Dr Roland Jackson, chief executive of the BSA, said the survey showed "a pretty high awareness of GM food" and considerable interest in the subject, with two thirds of respondents interested in it.

However, he added that "support for GM (made in need)" and there is "ambivalence as to whether or not it should be encouraged".

Dr Roland said: "This survey suggests that the debate on GM may have moved on as people recognise that it is an area of opposition among us, rather than one univocally in food production."

"Nevertheless it remains important for scientists and policy makers to understand and incorporate public perspectives as they seek to develop new applications and products."

Just over 2,000 people were surveyed for the BSA study.

McDonald's exemption from Olympics' sustainable food standards sparks green anger

THE ORGANISERS of London's new Olympic Games have been accused of failing to reinforce their own sustainable food sourcing pledges, after it was confirmed McDonald's will be exempt from a requirement to source all life chickens from Britain for the summer's Games.

Johnathan Cox, chairman of the London Olympic and Paralympic Organising Committee (LOCOG), yesterday told the London Assembly that McDonald's, the official 2012 London Games food sponsor, will only source 50 per cent of its chickens from UK farmers.

While LOCOG's Food Vision, the go-forward source of poultry requested to be used at the Olympics should be 100% British, it is not clear how the exemption will be justified. The Food Trustee, instead, of high quality, for its purpose, and free from damage or spoilage.

Cox confirmed McDonald's has moved an exemption from the demand of its Food Vision and will import 50 per cent of chickens from other countries such as Brazil, although it would comply with equivalent Food Trustee Assured and international environmental standards such as GlobalGAP.

However, Green Party London assembly member Jenny Jones lambasted the exemption as a "disgrace", questioning the decision to

as the face of LOCOG's commitment to cut its carbon footprint by sourcing food locally, and to set an example for other businesses to follow.

"This has a massive way beyond the Games," she told Cox.

"It is an absolute disgrace that McDonald's will import most of the chicken it will serve at the Games from as far away as Brazil. This is a direct failure of McDonald's to support British farmers and of LOCOG, the games organisers, to ensure all Games sponsors adhere to the food sourcing standards they set."

However, Cox defended McDonald's food sourcing commitments, maintaining all its beef and pork is sourced from the UK and Ireland, adding that the company was making a "serious contribution to the [Games] food vision" through its position as LOCOG's food advisory group.

Pt of Douglas, chief executive of LOCOG, also maintained that McDonald's would be supplying less than 50 per cent of the Olympics



Games food, and restaurants would have a broad range of locally sourced meat options.

"I don't think there has ever been any Games or major sporting event that's had the level of food policy we've got," he said.

"We're going to show us the best British quality food."

A McDonald's food safety spokeswoman added that McDonald's fully complied with the standards set out in LOCOG's Food Vision, and was a long-term supporter of British agriculture, spending more than £500m each year with UK farmers.

However, the spokeswoman is now fresh questions about LOCOG's commitment to sustainable sourcing after it accepted last month that its chicken labels will be made in the United States and flown back to the UK for distribution.

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Fashion

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Diene von Furstenberg designs childrenswear for Gap

MULTI-TALENTED fashion designer Diene von Furstenberg, who found fame and success in the 1980s with her iconic strap dresses, is launching a range of children's and babywear for Gap.

Following in the footsteps of fellow designer and Gap collaborator Stella McCartney, the 39-year-old has used her experience as a mother and grandmother to create a collection with the mature reader mind to newborn baby girl, right up to 14-year-old teens.

Bold colors and patterns will showcase open practical jersey dresses, leggings and tops from the foundations of the collection, with vintage 1970s lab coats and hats made working for design inspiration. The deconstructed strap dress has been reimagined with a lighter weight to suit children. "It's timeless, editorial, playful," she says. "My 10-year-old daughter loves me, so I'm sure she'll love this collection." Diene von Furstenberg, who she is co-owner of the House of Furstenberg, is also the president of the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA).

The colorful collection has shown and will be shown in the UK from March, with dresses starting from £10.

Fashion boss vows to revive chain

FRENCH CONNECTIVITY UK stores have dropped to an £8.1 million loss after a grim winter for the fashion chain.

Founder and chief executive Stephen Marks described the situation as the worst he has known, adding that he would take action to reinstate the UK operation.

He said it was increasingly difficult for the chain, which has been on the UK high street for 40 years, to maintain its full-price status as it has done previously.

"With higher costs, greater sales competition, the full-price loss at the UK and Europe retail area reduced from £1.5 million a year earlier, reflecting a sharp downturn in trading over autumn and winter."

After trading through wholesale channels and its licensing business, most of its group profits were £2 million in the year to January 30, compared with £13 million previously. Mr Marks said the company's situation hampered trading but admitted the UK retail performance was "very disappointing" in comparison with other retailers.

He added: "We are very certain that there will be no quick solution and that changes we make will take time to have an impact."

"We are working very hard on improving



the performance of the retail stores, although clearly the state of the UK economy is not helping the position."

New projects include a range of premium merchandise for the spring season which is available in stores and on the internet. It

will also broaden its branded offer to include accessories in its larger stores and online.

The company also warned that it will reduce the size of its portfolio of stores as its customers and landlords are not willing to lower rents.

Tesco forced to withdraw t-shirt after putting student's face on front

A T-SHIRT has been pulled from Tesco after a fashion student complained her face had been used on the current edition's packaging.

Student Nicola Kirkbride has accused the supermarket giant of taking the image from her blog and putting it on the t-shirt's box.

The yellow, long-sleeved top places the student's photo in the middle of a heart-shaped design.

The words "love me, love my t-shirt" are printed underneath.

In the original photograph, Nicola, who is studying at Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, is wearing a dairy chain around her head and is dressed in a floral top and shorts.

The 20-year-old student, who is in her final year of study, was only made aware the image was being used after one of her 1,500 blog followers alerted her.

Nicola said: "I didn't start a fashion blog for part of my coursework last year at university and I posted it on my blog just kept it as a 'secret' regularly updated with photos of myself, which I take with a self timer on my camera, so people can see what places I have been to recently."

"But I was completely shocked when someone who had been following my blog and the new one of my photos of her work in Tesco on a t-shirt."

She added that she was outraged that her image could end up being sold in hundreds of stores across the country without her knowledge.



Nicola said she had previously been approached by High Street Chain Stores. She said: "They asked me if they could use some of my images and I said yes."

"It was very flattering, but then they told me they would need me to sign a contract to sign if they decided to use my photographs and said they would pay me accordingly."

Nicola was sent to a Tesco store to check it was true and was amazed to find the top on the shelf.

She has since contacted Tesco to demand it be removed from its blog stating that all artwork on the site belongs to her, unless stated otherwise, and that permission must be sought before using images.

Tesco admitted they had withdrawn the top from their stores.

A spokesman for the firm said: "We have taken all steps and we have looked at every image."

He added: "We are looking into that and we are speaking to Nicola Kirkbride."

Duchess Kate selects lucky student designer to create her a pair of shoes



FASHION STUDENT Kate Hunt has been selected to design a pair of shoes for the Duchess of Cambridge.

Duchess Catherine was accompanying the Queen on a trip to Lancaster's De Montfort University as part of the Duchess's Jubilee celebrations where she presented shoe designs by one of the university's students.

Kate Hunt saw off the competition thanks to a blue and white shoe last

inspired by the colors of Kate's favorite engagement ring. Speaking about her design before the judging, she said: "It is inspired by 18th-century lace and based around the things Kate wears, her engagement ring and her style."

Upon being informed of the Duchess's choice, Kate said: "I'm hoping that will get my name out there. I'm so proud of it, it means everything and it's a really nice thing for my career."

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Giving your body a spring clean!

WHAT A WONDERFUL weekend of sunshine we have just had. I love it. Some of us get awoken and start working on our gardens, others start tidying down the house. Whatever you do, don't forget to give your body a good spring clean too.

Have you ever wondered how the food you are eating supports or hinders your body? Or what exactly you should be eating to maintain your state of fitness or even disease? Here's a thought: do you know which foods might trigger, or even quadruple, your risk of cancer, heart disease, diabetes or more?

Now, sure that's true, we need all the help we can get to maintain healthy. With our bodies being completely bombarded with toxic chemicals and pollutants daily, it is important to know what is going to help or with the task.

What do we trust? The media? Perhaps food companies with vested interest? These are tricky questions sure to lead up for fact, but not without some leads and there is one way you can increase your life span. However, it may be very hard to know how best to take charge of your personal well-being.

Let's get us confused and want to live a relaxed, active and healthy life. Here just take time for you ...



Denise Kelly

A couple of years ago I met an amazing lady called Max Fink. She is a degree level scientist and our Hippocrates Health Educator.

Hippocrates states of myriads of health and healing centres in the world and is based in Florida. Over the years they have reversed, healed, helped and given much hope to thousands of people who have serious disease and Max has spent many weeks there. The reason Max herself was so confident in her work is because she looked herself in a mirror of the Epigenetic. Her work and science brought about a radical change of diet and lifestyle. She now runs marathons and climbs mountains (she has just got back from Kilimanjaro) and has over two decades of experience in the research of healthy living. She is a powerhouse of knowledge. In fact I don't think I have met anyone as

knowledgeable, loving and inspiring as her before.

We decided it would be the most perfect time of year for her to arrive and give a talk in Chichester around the positive effects of healthy living, dieting and the work about how to take control of your own health.

I have organised an evening for Max to do a talk on Tuesday 17 March at 7.30pm-9.30pm in Chichester.

The talk is going to be at the Chichester Vineyards Centre, 25, New England, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1DE.

It's a beautiful venue and there is plenty of parking directly outside. The lecture room is on the first floor, but unfortunately there are no lifts. Please call me on 07744 494025, or 07744 391005, to discuss further or to book your ticket. Tickets cost Europe price. Cash or cheque only.



This is one NOT to be missed. Denise Kelly is a BANT (British Association of Nutritionists) (formerly registered) Naturopathic Nutritional Therapist. She writes Nutritional Progression for a variety of organisations and has a private practice in Chichester. Visit Denise and is the founder of E.E. Fit Kids. Tel: 07744 391005 or www.denisekelly.co.uk

For glowing skin eat more fruits and vegetables



EATING more fruit and vegetables can make our skin glow within a matter of weeks, according to new research. Researchers from the University of Aberdeen have proved that our skin will start glowing naturally if we eat more carrots and vegetables.

Researchers monitored 25 students over a six-week period. They measured the elasticity of the 35-year-olds before and after the study. During that period, volunteers were requested to eat a five-a-day meal, as usually prepared by the National Health Service (NHS). Just by having a five-a-day meal, they found that the 35-year-olds' faces became

quite attractive and beautiful, after six weeks.

Five-a-day meal eating five portions of fruit every day or five portions of vegetables (including salads) every day or eating a mix of fruit and vegetables (including salads) each day or two fruit and three vegetables, every day.

Researchers found that just two extra portions of fruit and vegetables a day created a noticeable change in skin colour within six weeks. They also believe that longer or more prolonged dietary changes are likely to make the skin look increasingly healthy over time.

Legal go-ahead for 'locked in' case

LEGAL ACTION brought by locked in syndrome sufferer Tony Nicklinson, who wants a doctor to be allowed to let 'unbearable' life finally, can go ahead following a judge's ruling.

The decision was announced at the High Court in London by Mr Justice Charles, who had been asked to decide on a preliminary 'strike out' application in the case made by the Ministry of Justice. He had been asked whether it was not for the court to act, but Mr Justice Charles.

Announcing his decision, the judge allowed most of Mr Nicklinson's case to proceed but struck out one part of his claim.

Mr Nicklinson, 55, who is married with two grown-up daughters and lives in Midsalham, Wiltshire, wants a doctor to be 'lawfully' able to end his life, which he says is a 'full, aware, sane, conscious, undistorted and unimpaired'.

He launched a legal action seeking court declarations that a doctor could administer to him 'voluntary' and have a 'common law defence of necessity' against any murder charge.

The judge gave Mr Nicklinson the go-ahead to take his case further in judicial review proceedings in relation to two of those declarations sought.

He ruled that Mr Nicklinson 'has established an arguable case in support of the declaration he seeks relating to the availability of a defence of necessity'.

Mr Justice Charles also gave the go-ahead



TONY NICKLINSON, 55, who is married with two grown-up daughters and lives in Midsalham, Wiltshire, wants a doctor to be 'lawfully' able to end his life, which he says is a 'full, aware, sane, conscious, undistorted and unimpaired'.

light in relation to a second declaration sought by Mr Nicklinson over his right to request for prison life under Article 5 of the Human Rights Convention.

But the judge struck out his case in relation to a third declaration. That declaration was that 'existing domestic law and practice fail adequately to regulate the provision of serious sedation, both voluntary and involuntary', as levels of details in the right to life.

Mr Justice Charles said in his judgment Mr Nicklinson did not have any realistic chance of persuading a court to grant that declaration 'even if it is assumed that his underlying arguments based on the position of others are arguable', he explained. The reason for that is that the court should not step in to that debate because it is a matter for Parliament.

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Lifestyle

Beaz Geylls axed from Discovery Channel

ADVENTURER Beaz Geylls has been axed from the Discovery Channel after consistent claims from the magazine broke down.

The former *50/50* presenter fronted the highly popular 'Beaz Turner' show on the channel, which regularly received millions of viewers since launching in 2005, leaving Geylls into a controversial war.

His publicist confirmed the end of the series, saying the pair's on and off screen relationship was not a good fit for programming.

Turner never arrives Geylls being dropped aside a remote location somewhere in the world, unwilling to arrive in the harsh conditions. Viewers would regularly see Geylls dealing his own way, leaving animals and setting traps.

The show has been a huge success for the Discovery Channel, being shown in over 200 territories around the world, and has attracted a relatively young viewers to begin with for a wildlife programme, including Jake Gyllenhaal, Will Ferrell and most recently Jonathan Van Ness.

Twisting on the decision, Geylls said: "Thank you first for your support! Do not get where the path may lead, go instead where the sun is shining and learn a trait."

Unemployment hits 17-year high amid economic gloom

THE NUMBER of jobless Britons edged closer to a crystalline ice on the three months to January, and the unemployment rate is at the highest level for almost 17 years, official data showed on Wednesday.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement that the number of unemployed people that had by 31.0.00 rose over the period – the smallest increase for almost one year.

The unemployment rate stood at 8.4 percent – the highest level since November 1994. That was unchanged from the three months to December but marked an increase from 8.3 percent in the three months to October.

And the discount cost of people registered for unemployment benefits increased by 2.000 in February from January to reach 1.000 million, the highest figure since the end of 2008.

At the same time, however, the number of people at work increased by 1.000 in the quarter to January, leaving the number of people at work unchanged from the three months to December but marked an increase from 8.3 percent in the three months to October.

"As anticipated, the recent pick-up in economic growth seems to be stabilised by long-term unemployment."

The ONS added on Wednesday that total



number of unemployed people aged 16-64 in Britain rose by 1.000 to 1.000 million.

That pushed the youth unemployment rate up to a record 13.9 percent – which was the highest since comparable records began in 1970.

ONS Chief Economist Howard Archer said that the current world job picture on finance minister George Osborne has measures to tackle youth unemployment in

the upcoming annual budget in March 10.

"The very serious message is that many of these people will be out of work for an extended period given the persistently weak economy and muted growth outlook," said Archer.

"This is a troubling tale of a lost generation of our future and jobless presence on the channel to come up with more measures to help young people to get jobs."



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Please bring your own picnic, but for safety reasons no alcohol, no flammable or offensive, and no cold food and a bar will be available. Seating and cover is not provided on the bring chairs, tables, plastic blankets and umbrellas. Arrivals are subject to weather conditions and cancellability. A Chair has been included in the price which has to be picked up on arrival.

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Make up on the move

WOMEN have replaced the changing table with the cosmetics as ever more of British women now apply their make-up on their morning commute by public transport according to research released from Delamoda.

With the average woman up to make taking 45 minutes, it leaves ample time for British women to cover up blouses, baggies, eyelashes, powder their faces and apply lipstick.

High street retailers, Delamoda, found that 60 per cent of women regularly apply all their make-up on public transport and a staggering 10 per cent of women often 'touch up' their make-up whilst travelling.

Lipstick was the most applied cosmetics on a journey, with 60 per cent of women following suit. Eyeliner was deemed the most difficult product, with only 30 per cent of women attempting to apply it while on the move due to the steady hand needed to get as close to the eye.

Unsurprisingly, 60 per cent of women reported a cosmetic collapse thanks to sudden traffic stops, leaving people on a packed train or bus and having to juggle holding cosmetics and a mirror.

Loose powders were a go-to for women on the move with 70 per cent of women saying they deliberately avoided them due to the mess they could make. Two in five products such as palette and lipstick were however considered as perfect for the cosmetics due to



their space and time saving nature.

Elspeth Expert and author of *Ultimate Guide to Party Planning and Etiquette*, Les Brown says, "A quick dab of powder or discreetly reapplying lipstick is acceptable, however, to put on all your make-up on public transport is not the best idea. Some things should be kept behind closed doors."

"Make-up should always be used to enhance your features – ensuring subtle steps in the transformation. It would seem sensible to reveal your beauty secrets to all and sundry."

A morning makeup routine on the move is most popular amongst women in their thirties, commonly balancing the demands of work, family life and socialising. Top ten cities / towns for cosmetic application: 1. London, 2. Manchester, 3. Liverpool, 4. Dublin, 5. Cardiff, 6. Glasgow, 7. Edinburgh, 8. Sheffield, 9. Kirk, 10. York.



Spread the cost of your summer holiday with Asda Travel



THE MOST POPULAR destination with Asda Travel customers are currently Spain and Egypt – and people are also looking for bargain breaks in the UK.

Although money is tight for many people this year our latest survey found that Asda users consider a family holiday as a reward for making savings during the rest of the year.

And this year for the first time you can spread your holiday payment when you book through Asda Travel.

We asked our Facebook fans if a holiday was a luxury or an essential – here's what some of them said:

Alison Pithie: An essential luxury, where

the point of us both working our socks off all year if we can't get a week away with the kids to enjoy family time. It's just a bit away each week over the course of a year and this year we are sharing a villa with family to share the cost.

Lara Flood: I struggle to do but definitely an essential. I've just going away to spend time with just me and my son.

Shirley Pickmans: Essential. I am not sure but I live for my holiday, which wrong with cutting down on other things for it?

Tonnes the latest destinations and to find out more about spreading the cost of your holiday goes Asda Travel.

Thomas Cook launches largest ever multi-media campaign

THOMAS COOK has joined other industry heavyweights in urging the government to support all sectors of travel – not just domestic tourism.

The call from co-chief executives has come as Asda Travel's Cook isling scores than one million UK breaks and year and being official short break provider for the London Olympics.

Julian, speaking at Cook launched its largest ever multi-media ad marketing campaign (see video below) just a day after the £4 million government-backed Washington push was announced, said:

"Having two formulaic players talking about travel at the same time of year can only mean good things for the industry, encouraging people to book holiday now, whether it is an overseas break or a UK one."

"UK holidays are part of our heritage, with the first overseas from London to Longleisure's organised by Thomas Cook in 1840."

"Today, we are the UK's largest retailer of domestic holidays and sell over one million UK breaks every year, as well as being the official provider of short breaks to the London 2012 Olympic Games and providing more trips to UK sports events

than across the

"As a retailer of travel we provide our customers with the holiday that is right for them – be that one at home, abroad or both." But he added: "It's would doubt, like the government to acknowledge that the overseas tourism sector is just as important to the UK economy as the domestic operators are."

Comments by Cook shows that despite the increasing reliance on overseas' disposable income, a foreign holiday is still their number one spending priority that year. Julian said: "An overseas holiday has moved back up to become number one priority, with a third of people placing it top of their shopping list for the year."

The comments follow Asda, the UK and Virgin Holidays joining together to attack the government's domestic holiday promotion as targeted and costly.

The Cook ad campaign promotes destinations in the UK and overseas and runs from today (Friday) until the end of May.

Correspondence from the 18 to 19 underbelly World, Empire 2 "Hill Up" the government advert as set to the song "Wonderful World" by Jay Kay and will feature on TV, radio, online, in travel agencies and search media.

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Tax move 'benefits better off'

BETTER OFF families will benefit most from a rise in income tax allowances, a respected economic think-tank has said - questioning claims the policy may progress as

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) said the second-largest benefit of families would go to a cash bonus - and that the top half would be hit by a proportion of income.

Labour's Minister of Finance, Nicky Morgan, is pressing for further progress towards an agreement of £20,000 - which the coalition agreement said would be followed by 2015.

It is an extremely effective way of raising the tax system, according to the report, he told MPs last month as he proposed the case for the top half of the policy.

The IFS concluded that the policy was the most effective way of raising tax income on the lowest pay and would boost income tax work by taking more out of income (including those who are not in the tax system).

But it said: "It is important not to lose sight of the fact that the policy, especially in the second half, is a tax increase."

The coalition agreement said: "During the period of the policy, it is important to ensure that the policy does not cause any undue hardship to any individual."

The first increase in the allowance, from £10,000 to £12,000, was announced in the 2010 Budget. It will not come into effect until 2015, in April.

'Debt noose tightening' on families

A 'DEBT NOOSE' tightening around households, with families paying about four months' pay in interest, a report has warned.

The "interest burden" recorded for the last three months of 2011 equates to almost a quarter (24%) of income after regular bills are paid, debt charity the Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS) said.

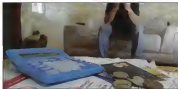
That shows how much the third quarter of last year was living on hand income, not savings, as the Consumer Credit and Money Report said.

Older people will be increasingly affected by debt problems, the study said, highlighting a rising demand for debt advice from late-stage professionals aged between 60 and 70.

"There has been a gradual rise in counselling demand from that group, with an increase from 10% to 15% in 2011 by (the mid) 60s," the report said. "Demand for debt advice will peak in 2012, reflecting the 'funding dilemma' seen in the financial crisis."

The charity said UK household indebtedness to pay debts, their children has been growing as disposable income has been eroded by high inflation, with experts warning, children and housing costs and deteriorating employment conditions.

The report said: "Interest payments are a



heavy burden on households because of the payment necessary regardless of income circumstances, they pose a major threat to the stability of many families. As a major spending component that must be met on time, the need to service debt is posing a significant challenge to the current economic situation where households' heads have lost jobs and incomes cannot dry up."

The report predicted rising unemployment, but a "positive effect" of the weak economy for indebted households will be some years of low interest rates.

The rates of one to two per cent of disposable income spent on servicing debts

increased to one to three earlier during the financial crisis as households piled on debt and then faced a dramatic fall in the market. Since the second half of 2009, the share of disposable income going towards interest payments has been stable and the report predicted it will remain this way in the coming months.

The report also showed the debt income to mortgage debt as a share of income has risen, from around 10% to 15% per household in the early 2000s to more than 15% by December 2011. It highlighted high rates of house ownership in the UK at 66% of households, compared with 47% in Germany.

Consumers 'still not spending much'

SHoppers have continued to keep their spending in check despite recent signs of hope for the UK economy, the British Retail Consortium (BRC) has said.

The trade body's Primary sales monitor showed the value of business was down 0.1% on a comparable base with a year ago, the same drop as in January.

Total sales, including store openings, was up 2.1% but with inflation at 2.5% in January that still shows consumers are buying less than a year ago.

The recent fall in inflation from above 5% has eased the squeeze on households but with that price again rising BRC director-general Stephen Robertson said there was no sign of a convincing retail-led change.

He added: "Unemployment is expected to rise further, causing increased uncertainty about job security, which is keeping confidence fragile. Any sense of improving optimism is not yet translating into more spending."

He repeated the BRC's call for the Chancellor to use the Budget to hold back business costs and support jobs, growth and a consumer turnaround.

While food sales picked up, down by last month's stretching up of oil and



energy in the very mild weather, non-food sales were weak despite promotional discounts. For clothing, footwear and homeware, February was worse than January and December, especially for large purchases, the BRC added.

Online continues to grow faster than any other retail channel but the rate of increase in sales at 2.1% has slowed since Christmas and is well down on the lead of performance seen in 2010 and before.

John Parkinson, head of retail at survey partner IPSOS, said: "Many retailers feel they're fighting very hard just to stand still at best and do less any light at the end of the tunnel."

"However, there are retailers out there who deliver what the consumer wants and needs in terms of product, brand and price, which proves that if the proposition is right it is still possible to outpace the market and the competition."

MPs voice Olympic budget fears

MPs' second fear as Friday that the 2012 London Olympic will go over budget, saying the public money allocated for the Games was close to being used up.

The Public Accounts Committee, a parliamentary watchdog body, also raised concerns about the legacy of the Games and the risk of the Olympic Stadium becoming a "white elephant".

In addition, the panel said it was "staggered" how many of the initial estimates had been for the cost of security at the Games, which will take place from July to August 2012.

"The venues and infrastructure of the London Olympic Games are on track to be delivered on time and within budget," said committee chair Margaret Hodge of the main opposition Labour party.

"The Olympic Delivery Authority's management of the building programme has been exemplary," she said.

It also noted the £6.6 billion (£4.7 billion, or 1.5 billion euros) public money funding package is close to being used up and was concerned about whether the running of the Games will be held within budget.

"Taking into account costs outside the package, the bill set out in the plan of the Games and legacy projects is already heading for around £10 billion."

Hodge said the committee was "particularly concerned about the significant increase in the security bill."

In December, the government announced that the number of security



guards for the Games was being increased from 10,000 to 25,000.

"LOCOG (the London Olympic organising committee) now needs more than twice the number of security guards it originally estimated and the costs have roughly doubled," Hodge said.

"It is staggering that the original estimate was so wrong."

LOCOG's original 20,000 figure was a "major in the air estimate," the report said.

The £100-million Olympic Stadium in Stratford, east London, was designed to be reduced to a 25,000-seater stadium when after the Games.

In a change of plan, London-based second tier football club West Ham was due to take over the stadium, but the deal has been scrapped.

"Plans for the stadium have fallen through. It is not just because a white elephant," Hodge said.

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Jaguar Land Rover says to create 1,000 new jobs in Britain

SHARPHED luxury carmaker Jaguar Land Rover announced Tuesday that it will ramp-up vehicle production and create 1,000 new jobs at its Halewood car factory in northwestern England.

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) today announced the creation of 1,000 new jobs at its Halewood operations manufacturing facility, near Liverpool in the UK, it said in a statement.

The positions, which will support the ongoing significant demand for the Range Rover Evoque and Land Rover Freelander 2, take the workforce at Halewood to almost 4,500 – triple its number employed there just three years ago.

Jaguar's leading vehicle maker Tata Motors acquired Jaguar and Land Rover from Ford for 3 billion in 2008.

These 1,000 new jobs are further evidence of JLR's clear ambition for continued growth, added JLR human resources director Don Theobald in Twitter.

"We are investing Halewood to time slots and we have operations to meet increased global demand for our products."

He added "JLR's supply chain is also set to benefit, with thousands more jobs expected to be created."

"Our commitment to expand the Halewood workforce and increase production aspect



new for JLR, for Mercedes and for the wider UK economy.

The announcement was meanwhile welcomed by Ure, which is Britain's largest trade union.

"The creation of new jobs at Halewood is more good news for Britain's car industry and

the local economy," said Ure's official Fergus Mathison.

"Again, Britain's car industry is looking the trend of manufacturing decline. It is good that with the right investment and support, UK manufacturing can be a success story."

The Confederation of British Industry,

which is the country's largest employers' organization, described the plan as:

"The news that Jaguar Land Rover will be creating a further 1,000 jobs at its Halewood plant is a shot in the arm for UK manufacturing and the automotive industry in particular, added CBI deputy director general Iain Barclay.

There is further evidence of re-balancing across the economy, with the latest UK trade figures showing record levels of exports going to countries outside the European Union, such as the US and China.

The news comes one week after Japanese auto giant Nissan announced it would build its new 1.6 billion investment that will create 1,000 jobs.

The new vehicle, called 'Jeepster', will be built at Nissan's plant in Halewood. The plant is a cornerstone of the UK's car industry. The Halewood plant produced more than 400,000 cars last year, a record high for a British plant, as the group was boosted by strong demand for its Land Rover, Jaguar and Range Rover models, many of which are sold outside of Britain.



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Rugby

Experience of a lifetime

CHICHESTER Greenhoppers tour party experienced a lifetime of life time by spending the day training with England's elite Rugby Squad.

The day began with warm talks and a talk from the England's operations manager. The boys were then shown around the Twickenham Park complex and observed their elite performance in the gym and at a laser net session.

The boys were allowed to chat freely to the players during their session and were also given a detailed insight into life in an elite English club.

After observing the session the boys enjoyed a photo and autograph session where all the England players chatted and signed the boys' shirts. To finish the day off the boys took part in a training session with a number of their former including Jordan Tait (England) and Dylan Hartley (Leicester). The England Hooker commented, "What a great bunch of lads, they were very professional in their appearance and they all set that they displayed a tremendous playing Chichester when I was 17".

Tour captain James "Mick" commented, "This day has been out of this world, every rugby player dreams of that moment and we have lived it, the boys will stand out from their whole lives, thanks to AEG and the lads."



Lead agent for organizing the day, Mick Tait, said: "The boys got to see the England players in action, the competition and what it's like to be a professional player."

Mick Tait, Tour manager explained, "The boys have been a great credit, not only to

their school but their city and their country. There were a number of parents on the tour from England players including the current captain Chris Robshaw who said how well-mannered the boys were. I hope that the boys see this experience to motivate themselves

to succeed in their rugby and their academic studies."

The touring party are still looking for potential sponsors, anyone wishing to visit the tour should email the tour please contact Murray Tait at murray@chichesterherald.co.uk

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